Minutes
ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Room G102A/B
Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC
10:00 – 11:15 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Greta Harris (chair), Melissa Nelson, Carrie Chenery

Committee Members Absent: Jeff Veatch

Additional Board Members Present: Horacio Valeiras, Letitia Long, Shelley Butler Barlow, C.T. Hill, Anna James, Sharon Brickhouse Martin, Melissa Nelson, Kim O'Rourke, Chris Petersen, Mehul Sanghani, Preston White.

Constituent Representatives Present: Eric Kaufman, (faculty representative), Sabrina Sturgeon (graduate and professional student representative), Camellia Pastore (undergraduate student representative), Tamarah Smith (staff representative)

Guests: Heather Adams, Kathy Alexander, Tom Archibald, Laura Belmonte, Kim Blair, Eric Brooks, Cyril Clarke, Al Cooper, Karen DePauw, Corey Earles, Dawn Evans, Kari Evans, Jack Finney, Henri Gendreau, Guru Ghosh, Dan Givens, Sarah Glenn, Daniel Guilliams, Kay Heidbreder, Byron Hughes, Lee Learman, Justin Noble, Ellen Plummer, Mark Owczarski, Frank Shushok, John Tarter, Sridhar Venkataramana.

OPEN SESSION

1. **Motion to Return to Open Session.**
   The committee voted unanimously to move into Open Session.

2. **Welcome and Acceptance of Agenda.** Greta Harris, chair of the committee, welcomed committee members and attendees to the Open Session. The morning tour of the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC was informative and highlighted exciting research areas.

   The committee voted unanimously to accept the agenda as presented including all items on the Consent Agenda.

3. **Report of Closed Session Action Items**. G. Harris reported that the committee met in closed session and approved nine faculty appointments to emeritus/emerita status, five appointments to endowed chairs, professorships, or fellowships, and two reappointments to Alumni Distinguished Professor.

4. **Consent Agenda**. June 2, 2020 Electronic Meeting Minutes, Report of Reappointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, and Fellowships, Ratification of the 2020-2021 Faculty Handbook, and a Resolution for Exclusion of Certain Officers/Directors.

5. **Overview of Academic Affairs:** Jack Finney, vice provost for faculty affairs reviewed the areas under the leadership of the provost including academic deans, vice provosts, and academic vice presidents. Under the approval purview of the ARSA committee are academic degrees, undergraduate, professional, and graduate student policies, and approval of policies for faculty employees of all types. Faculty employment actions approved by ARSA include promotion and tenure, research leaves, appointments to emeritus or emerita status, endowed professorships, and appointments to University Distinguished Professors and Alumni Distinguished Professors. Appropriate to the type of resolution, ARSA reviews and approves actions at each meeting in a Closed Session or in an Open Session.

6. **Report from the Council of College Deans.** Laura Belmonte, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and representative to the committee from the Council of College Deans, reported to the committee on several items. The Council of College Deans meets regularly to discuss topics of mutual interest. The council provides an excellent platform for collegiate exchange and support across the academic enterprise. The last several months have been dedicated to addressing current circumstances such as budget reductions, the plans for which are due August 28th. In addition, deans have been managing their college within the constraints of the hiring freeze, COVIC-19 planning for course scheduling, and classroom configurations. Faculty members continue to express concerns with being able to keep up properly with family caregiving including youth and elders. The schedule for the local schools presents a challenge as do the limited options for child care. The Virginia Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine has several highlights that include a substantial grant from the National Institutes of Health and a successful student enrollment in the newly accredited B.S. in Public Health.

7. **Discussion: Global Land Grant.** Guru Ghosh, vice president for outreach and international affairs, summarized the university's global plan for responding to the pandemic, including bringing more than 400 university students and faculty home from locations abroad, supporting international students and faculty who remained in the U.S., and communicating with numerous prospective students and faculty on issues related to travel. Panel members Kathleen Alexander, professor in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, in the College of Natural Resources and environment, Tom Archibald, associate professor in the Department of Agricultural Leadership and Community Education in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Venkataramana Sridhar, associate professor in the Department of Biological Systems Engineering in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, presented on their global research and outreach programs and the integration of their work in the domestic and international science and policy aspects of responding to COVID-19. Alexander works in Botswana, Archibald in Senegal, and Sridhar in Southeast Asia. Their work engages Virginia Tech, global partners, government agencies, and community partners. The global and local reach of their work, termed "glocal," demonstrates the impact and reach of Virginia Tech's faculty.

8. **Provost's Update and Discussion.** Cyril Clarke, executive vice president and provost, introduced Dan Givens who began his tenure June 1, 2020 as dean of the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. Dean Givens holds DVM and Ph.D. degrees, is boarded in theriogenology and microbiology, and comes to the Virginia Tech from Auburn University. The university is grateful for the outstanding leadership and service of Greg Daniel, professor of small animal clinical sciences, who served as interim dean of the college. Don Taylor, the Charles O. Gordon Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering, has been appointed executive vice provost effective July 1, 2020. His leadership roles include service as head in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, interim dean of the College of Engineering, vice provost for learning systems innovation and effectiveness, and interim vice president for research and innovation. In this role, executive vice provost Taylor will support the day-to-day management of activities in academic enterprise and improve strategic capabilities of the office of the provost. The search for a new vice president for research and innovation continues.

The university's progress towards reaccreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) is meeting all deadlines. The university's self-study is the first step and is on target for submission by the September 9, 2020 deadline. Subsequent steps towards reaccreditation include a November 2020 off-site review, submission of any additional reports requested by the off-site review team due February 1, 2021, submission of the university's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) required by the SACSCOC, and an on-site review team visit in mid-March 2021. The QEP is a document that outlines the university's processes for identifying emerging issues from institutional assessment and focuses on learning outcomes aimed at accomplishing the mission of the university.

The final outcome of enrollments will be determined at census in September 2020. Given the circumstances, enrollment is satisfactory. As of August 22, 2020, the university's undergraduate enrollments include 6,632 freshmen (43 fewer than the 6,675 goal), 1,876 out-of-state freshmen (248 fewer than the 2,124 goal, and 28.3% of total), 109 international freshmen (328 fewer than the 437 goal), 1,257 transfer students (125 more than the 1,132 goal). Deferrals include 96 to spring 2021 (1 semester), 292 to fall 2021 (I year), 39 beyond fall 2021, for a total of 427 deferrals. The academic profile of the freshman class: 3.97 average high school grade point average, and average score of 1271 on the SAT. The academic profile of transfer students is an average college GPA of 3.47. The diversity of the freshman class includes: 39% underserved (USS)/underrepresented (URM), 20% URM, 20% first generation, 18% Pell-eligible, and 3% international. The provost expressed appreciation for the university's Enrollment Management Team and the Enrollment Advisory Council.

Preparation for the fall semester was driven by a commitment to optimize three primary factors: public health, academic program quality, and resource capacity. In addition, planning and implementation is guided by a commitment to shared

responsibility by the office of the provost, the senior vice president and chief business officer, and the emergency management team. The cabinet of the Faculty Senate and the provost have kept in regular communication. In addition, communication between the university and the Town of Blacksburg has been important. The health-risk mitigation strategy includes: isolating infected individuals including a 14-day quarantine for students before arrival, reducing spread of infection through the use of masks and distancing, identifying and supporting infected individuals through testing, contact tracing and isolation/quarantine. Key partners are the local and state departments of health. Efforts continue to recognize and provide support for challenges such as student mental health, child and dependent care responsibilities, and the concerns of faculty on the impact of the pandemic on career progression.

9. **Agenda Items for November 2020 meeting.**
   The chair of the committee will contact committee members for topics to include on agendas for subsequent ARSA committee meetings.

10. **Adjourn.** Having no further business, the committee adjourned at 11:15.

MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

WHEREAS, the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University has convened in closed session on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provision of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Visitors that such closed session was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge,

> (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open session requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed session to which this certification resolution applies, and
> (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Visitors.

Acceptance of Agenda

ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The chair of the committee will review and ask for acceptance of the Open Session Agenda and items as listed on the Open Session Consent Agenda.

Report of Closed Session Items

ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

August 24, 2020

The Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee met in closed session to consider:

- Nine appointments to Emeritus or Emerita Status
- Five appointments to an Endowed Chair, Professorship, or Fellowship
- Two reappointments to Alumni Distinguished Professor

These matters will be brought for a vote to the full board during its Closed Session.

ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
VIRGINIA TECH BOARD OF VISITORS
MINUTES

June 1, 2020

The Academic, Research, and Student Affairs committee of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University met on Monday, June 1, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. On this date, the Commonwealth of Virginia was operating under a state of emergency as declared by Governor Northam due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was an entirely electronic meeting held via Zoom videoconference to conduct regular business as permitted by legislation passed by the General Assembly on April 22, 2020, and signed into law by Governor Northam.* A quorum of the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs committee was present on the videoconference.

Academic, Research and Student Affairs Members Present:
    Ms. Greta Harris (chair)
    Ms. Sharon Brickhouse Martin
    Mr. Chris Petersen

Additional Board Members Present:
    Mr. Horacio Valeiras (rector)
    Mr. Edward Baine
    Ms. Shelley Butler Barlow
    Mr. Charles Hill
    Ms. Anna James
    Ms. Letitia Long (vice rector)
    Dr. Melissa Byrne Nelson

Board Members Not Present:
    Mr. Mehul Sanghani
    Mr. Dennis Treacy

Also present on the Zoom videoconference were the following: President Timothy Sands, Ms. Kim O'Rourke (Secretary to the Board), Dr. Catherine Amelink, Ms. Beth Armstrong, Dr. Richard Blythe, Dr. Cyril Clarke, Mr. Al Cooper, Dr. Karen DePauw, Mr. Corey Earles, Mr. Juan Espinoza, Ms. Kari Evans, Dr. John Ferris, Dr. Jack Finney, Dr. Mike Friedlander, Ms. Rachel Gabriel, Dr. Luisa Havens-Gerardo, Dr. Guru Ghosh, Mr. Dave Guerin, Ms. Kay Heidbreder, Dr. Rachel Holloway, Mr. Ryan King, Ms. Sharon Kurek, Dr. Scott Midkiff, Dr. Dwayne Pinkney, Dr. Ellen Plummer, Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke, Dr. Frank Shushok, Dr. Ken Smith, Ms. Tamarah Smith, Mr. Rick Sparks, Dr. G. Don Taylor, Ms. Madelynn Todd, Ms. Tracy Vosburgh, and Mr. Chris Yianilos.

In addition, 51 members of the university community and public viewed a live stream of the videoconference on YouTube Live.
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Ms. Greta Harris, chair of the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs committee, convened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Ms. Harris sand Rector Valeiras mentioned recent events and underscored the importance of working together and remaining focused on the university's land grand mission for educating leaders who can lead with a focus on equity.

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1. Approval/Acceptance of Consent Agenda Open Items*

[*Note: Items on the consent agenda are matters of importance reviewed carefully in preparation for the meeting and have been determined not to require discussion by the board or its committees.]

Ms. Harris asked for a motion to approve/accept the consent agenda items as listed. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

2. Consent Agenda

  A. November 18, 2019 Minutes
  B. Report of Reappointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, and Fellowships – March and June
  C. Resolution to Accept Report of Completion of Guidelines for Open Educational Resources (OER) and Open Textbooks
  D. Resolution to Change the Terms of Service for Faculty, Students and Staff on University Council and Commissions
  E. Resolution to Approve New Degree Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Decision Science
  F. Resolution to Approve the 2020-2021 Student Code of Conduct and to Retire the Hokie Handbook

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3. Provost's Update

Ms. Harris called on Dr. Cyril Clarke, executive vice president and provost to present his update. Dr. Clarke identified key administrators who are available to answer questions as needed. Dr. Clarke thanked Ms. Harris for her exceptional leadership as chair of the committee and thanked Mr. Petersen and Ms. Brickhouse Martin for their service as ARSA committee members over the past year.

Executive Search Updates. In executive personnel matters, Dr. Clarke shared that Dr. Frank Shushok was appointed as vice president for student affairs effective April 10, 2020. The search for vice president for research and innovation remains underway. Interviews resulted in the selection of two candidates for additional consideration. The

goal is to complete an additional phase of remote interviews and to bring a finalist to campus as soon as this is possible.

Undergraduate Student Enrollments. Considerations were informed by the Enrollment Management Advisory Committee including members from the Faculty Senate, the academic colleges, the office of budget and finance, and a number of modeling experts. Relative to last year, despite far fewer offers being made initially, the acceptance rate was high and then moderated as we approached the May acceptance deadline, requiring a well calibrated release of offers from the waitlist, informed by modeling of data.

Outcomes. Consistent with the last two years, the university received over 31,000 freshman applications. On May 30, 2020, the university had 7,152 acceptances (790 fewer than 2019). The university anticipates a higher than normal melt over the course of the summer to bring the enrollment headcount close to the 6,675 target. International student acceptances are down by 400 compared to 2019, resulting in potential revenue implications. The university has met its target for transfer students by admitting 1,132 students from over 2,875 applications. Not including international students, the percentages of underrepresented minorities and underserved students who have accepted freshman offers of admission are higher than in 2019:

- African American – 8.0% of the class (2.1 % point increase)
- Hispanic/Latinx – 10.5% of the class (2.6 % point increase)
- USS (Pell-eligible and/or First Gen.) – 25.7 % (1.3 % point increase)

In particular, the College of Engineering and the Pamplin College of Business have opportunities to advance the underserved and underrepresented students this year. Combined freshman and transfer underserved and underrepresented students is 38%, the highest proportion on record towards the university's 40% strategic goal. Thus far, there is continuing strength in recruitment of computer science and computer engineering students for the Tech Talent pipeline. Although encouraging, the university still has much to do to achieve true diversity.

Fall Instruction. The plan for fall semester is scheduled to be announced by President Sands on Monday, June 8. A number of options have been informed by ongoing input from constituent groups, particularly the Faculty Senate cabinet. This summary is subject to change as additional insight and direction is received from state law, regulations, and executive orders and by guidance received from a working group convened by the Virginia Secretary of Education.

Design of the Academic Plan. Guided by three primary factors, the intersections of these factors, with the appropriate balance of safety, must be optimized to achieve respective goals to the greatest extent possible:

- Public health, with the goal of preventing resurgence of COVID-19;
- Academic program quality, with the goal of presenting as much in-person instruction as possible; and
- Resource capacity, with the goal of not exceeding instructional space, class scheduling time, and course preparation time, financial and other resources.

Integration of In-Person and Online Academic Program Delivery. The goal is to make progress in transitioning from online delivery of the curriculum to in-person instruction by incorporating new and effective modalities. The transitional phase is anticipated to include online courses and hybrid courses involving online and in-person instruction. Emphasis will be placed on in-person instruction to support experiential learning opportunities in courses, including wet laboratories, design-build laboratories, research, fieldwork, performance and creation of the arts, and clinical training. For in-person experiential learning, standard operating procedures (SOPs) will guide the public health practices appropriate to each specific learning activity. These procedures will comply with the university's Guidelines for Implementation of Public Health Measures (published 5/21/20) and include consultation with the assistant vice president for emergency management and the university's Incident Management Team. Due to the limited capacity of most lecture spaces (updated to enable physical distancing), most lectures will be delivered online. Faculty members have primary responsibility for selection of the mode of instructional delivery (online versus in-person) and the design of public health SOPs for in-person learning, in consultation with academic department heads. Particular attention will be committed to protection of vulnerable individuals, identified by self-disclosure. Department heads will have responsibility for assigning faculty to instructional duties, taking into consideration the willingness and availability of faculty to deliver in-person instruction and adopting a flexible approach that may necessitate asking faculty to cover for one another. Graduate student assistants will be incorporated into these plans, with similar provisions and flexibility to address personal health risk circumstances. Initially, a third to half of the instructional contact hours may be in-person, but the educational value of this experiential learning will be far greater. As the semester progresses, in-person instruction will increase as faculty become more comfortable with understanding and mitigating health safety risk.

Student Services. Students will be provided accommodation in on-campus residence halls on a double-occupancy basis. This approach allows the university to manage the public health of students within a more structured environment than would otherwise be the case if these students were forced to live off campus, where there is limited vacancy. Student accommodation in residence halls will be subject to them signing a wellness commitment agreement. Sufficient space will be set aside in a residential hall dedicated to single occupancy quarantine of students who test positive for active COVID-19. Depending on availability of space, students who have a documented vulnerability to COVID-19 will be assigned to single-occupancy rooms. Grab-and-go meals will continue

to be available, otherwise students will be served in dining facilities, in compliance with state standards relating to such facilities, including physical distancing standards.

Fall semester schedule. Several options have been considered: (a) to address concerns that students leaving and returning to campus on the Thanksgiving weekend may cause an increase in infections; and (b) to mitigate the risk of having to manage a possible resurgence of COVID-19 during the winter months. These options would all terminate in-person and residential instruction before Thanksgiving, and might vary in regard to when the fall semester would start and whether instruction would continue online after Thanksgiving.

Research. The university's sponsored research enterprise is adopting a phased approach to recovery of operations.

Recovery of Research Operations. The goal is gradually to increase the density of researchers and projects while adhering to safety guidelines for laboratories and common spaces. Phase One Reopening Guidance for research and laboratories was issued by the university on May 22. Generally, the following conditions apply:

- Employees are encouraged to telework whenever possible. A partial return of non-essential research will be permitted with approval by the researcher's college dean, institute director, or vice president.
- Approvals depend on appropriate, site- and situation-specific adherence to public health measures.
- Application of these measures is facilitated by completion and posting in the research site the university's COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures for On-Site Laboratories form.
- Research with human subjects will be carefully considered and will require Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval.

COVID-19 Seed Funding. University funding was established to promote research into COVID-19 and its effective management. Nine projects have been approved, with research study topics ranging from pathogenesis and treatment to community care.

Continued Research Activity. Research activity across the university includes, for example the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC which submitted 33 grants in March, April and May with a total value of $28.1M. In addition, 17 new grants were awarded to FBRI faculty in March, April, May with a total value of $25.4.

Outreach. The outreach mission of the university continues across the Commonwealth and beyond.

Virginia Cooperative Extension. Extension faculty are working with Virginia's county and city governments to open cautiously with application of appropriate public health

measures and continued remote service. In-person engagement is by appointment. Examples of creativity in virtual programming include: a bull sale, youth livestock shows, volunteer training in 4-H that virtually reached over 500 in 20 states, virtual field days for producers

Veterinary Hospitals. Clinical services will resume in the summer in accordance with Commonwealth approval, with appropriate application of public health measures.

The Inn at Virginia Tech. The Inn reopens for business today (June 1, 2020) under strict guidelines and will follow the highest standards set by the hospitality industry. In person conferences at the Inn are scheduled to resume in August and will adhere to density limitations in force at the time.

Outreach Centers. The university's outreach centers around the Commonwealth are in telework status and rural employees have been provided hotspots where appropriate. Reopening of outreach centers is predicated on personal protective equipment (PPE) availability for staff and guidance from the university's Incident Management Team (IMT) with staggered in-person reopening through June.

Committee discussion included acknowledgement of the enrollment management team's efforts to increase undergraduate student diversity. On-campus students can expect to be welcomed and guided by public health data and guidance to optimize safety. This will include social distancing and alternatives for food delivery/take out; events will be in smaller rooms and smaller in scale; residence life will include masks in common areas/restrooms; sacrifices will be needed as we do things differently, but try to make residence life best it can be. The faculty will be working to determine the appropriate mode for delivery of curriculum in the fall with a commitment to safety. Students will be provided with guidelines for social distancing, wearing of masks, and other measures designed to maximize safety. Success depends on community cooperation and the university community's collective commitment to safety and health.

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4. **Report from the Council of College Deans.**

Provost Clarke Provost thanked Dean Richard Blythe for serving as lead to the committee for Council of College Deans for past year.

Dr. Richard Blythe, dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies and representative to the committee from the Council of College Deans highlighted the many ways in which the colleges have responded to the COVID-19 crisis. The academic deans worked closely with the college faculty to focus on essential research and to pivot to online learning and teaching for the last part of the academic year. The shift to an online

commencement impacted colleges in many different ways. Deans worked to manage communications and setting expectations aligned with the university and state. Colleges are working through the impact on accreditation arising from the loss of practicums of various kinds in professionally accredited schools, particularly in medicine and veterinary sciences. The deans and colleges are working to manage the university's hiring freeze and addressing issues associated with off-site operations. In addition, colleges are working to solve the challenges associated with bringing students and faculty back to the US/Blacksburg and are working on re-assigning student assistantships.

Deans and their colleges are planning ahead for various uncertain and reduced budget scenarios. College plans include preparing for delivery of programs and courses in challenging circumstances with reduced budgets and with teams affected by the hiring freeze. Work continues to plan for opening back up and managing research around public health concerns and working with faculty to understand the interface of teaching, space and public health. Across the university, faculty are dedicated to finding the benefits of increased online teaching and learning capacity. Faculty are specifically working to transition from an emergency online pivot to a summer session delivered online (noting the significant difference between online as an emergency solution and online as the delivery mechanism); and then a further pivot to an as yet uncertain mixed mode of delivery in the fall semester. In classrooms and facilities, colleges are managing the spatial implications of working with COVID-19. For example, how much face to face can we deliver given the campus resources at our disposal; thinking in new ways - for example how much outdoor teaching can we do and if so how will we manage outdoor space; and what does experiential learning look like in a hybrid model. College leadership aims to maintain a focus on continuing with key strategic initiatives and strategic planning with new purpose while acknowledging and working with stress around job and income security at a time when that same workforce is being asked to step up and beyond to maintain the enterprise of undertaking world class research and providing every student with an outstanding education.

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5. **Student Support**.

Dr. Frank Shushok, vice president for student affairs, Dr. Karen DePauw, dean and vice president for graduate student education, and Dr. Rachel Holloway, vice provost for undergraduate academic affairs provided the committee with information regarding student support efforts.

Student support efforts are guided by information and data collected in a number of ways from undergraduate, graduate and professional students including: Student Emergency Fund applications, student wellbeing outreach survey, Division of Student Affairs outreach

to 1,600 students, academic advisor outreach to 2,000 students, Student Opportunities & Achievement Resources Program (SOAR) outreach to 3,800 students, a Graduate Student Assembly survey, focus groups with student leaders, and applications for residency on-campus. Physical, emotional, financial needs of students are diverse. Themes that emerge from the data include: students face challenges rent, food, medical care, and travel costs. Academically students face problems with the change to an online format and to internet access. Some students face emotional and mental health issues and challenges with overall wellbeing. Students expressed concerns with a loss of healthy living environments on campus when home is difficult and a loss of internships and employment. Most students are faring well and others are not well at all.

Academically, challenges are significant with access to effective study spaces and support away from campus. Academic advisors moved quickly to provide support services online. Retention rates for this spring are comparable to past years, showing students are committed to contouring their studies at Virginia Tech. Student orientation is successfully being delivered online. Graduate students have circumstances unique to their status as graduate students. COVID-19 impacts include disruptions to research efforts, assistantships, income, and visa status.

Committee discussion included comments from Provost Clarke who mentioned that the university has been proactive and thoughtful in surveying and engaging students to find out about needs and concerns. The graduate school, student affairs, provost's office and others will continue to work closely with student and faculty governance groups and representatives to ensure they are part of planning response processes and are able to communicate needs and concerns.

The reasons for increased summer enrollment is not entirely clear, however out-of-state student enrollment may be due to tuition cost savings.

The university does not yet know if faculty and staff are making decisions not to return to work due to Covid-19 concerns. Faculty are asking questions and some are expressing concerns about their safety. The availability of child care is important and we are engaged in communications with Montgomery County and Blacksburg to gauge their ability to accommodate child care services.

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6. **Adjourn**. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously and the committee meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

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Greta Harris, ARSA Chair

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Kim O'Rourke, Secretary

*Amendment 28: Allow policy-making boards to meet virtually during emergency declarations

Item **4-0.01** **Operating Policies**

Page 280, after line 26, insert:

"g. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any public body, including any state, local, regional, or regulatory body, or a governing board as defined in § **54.1-2345** of the Code of Virginia may meet by electronic communication means without a quorum of the public body or any member of the governing board physically assembled at one location when the Governor has declared a state of emergency in accordance with § **44-146.17**, provided that (i) the nature of the declared emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe for the public body or governing board to assemble in a single location; (ii) the purpose of meeting is to discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of the public body or common interest community association as defined in § **54.1-2345** of the Code of Virginia and the discharge of its lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities; (iii) a public body shall make available a recording or transcript of the meeting on its website in accordance with the timeframes established in §§ **2.2-3707** and **2.2-3707.1** of the Code of Virginia; and (iv) the governing board shall distribute minutes of a meeting held pursuant to this subdivision to common interest community association members by the same method used to provide notice of the meeting.

A public body or governing board convening a meeting in accordance with this subdivision shall:

1. Give notice to the public or common interest community association members using the best available method given the nature of the emergency, which notice shall be given contemporaneously with the notice provided to members of the public body or governing board conducting the meeting;

2. Make arrangements for public access or common interest community association members access to such meeting through electronic means including, to the extent practicable, videoconferencing technology. If the means of communication allows, provide the public or common interest community association members with an opportunity to comment; and

3. Public bodies must otherwise comply with the provisions of § **2.2-3708.2** of the Code of Virginia.

The nature of the emergency, the fact that the meeting was held by electronic communication means, and the type of electronic communication means by which the meeting was held shall be stated in the minutes of the public body or governing board."

REPORT

Reappointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, or Fellowships (1)

August 24, 2020

The president and executive vice president and provost have confirmed the reappointment of the following faculty to an endowed chair, professorship, or fellowship with a salary and/or operating supplement provided by the endowment and, if available, with funds from the eminent scholars match program.

College of Science (1)

F. Marc Michel   Luther and Alice Hamlett Junior Faculty Fellow

ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

VIRGINIA TECH BOARD OF VISITORS
AUGUST 24, 2020

JACK W. FINNEY, VICE PROVOST FOR FACULTY AFFAIRS
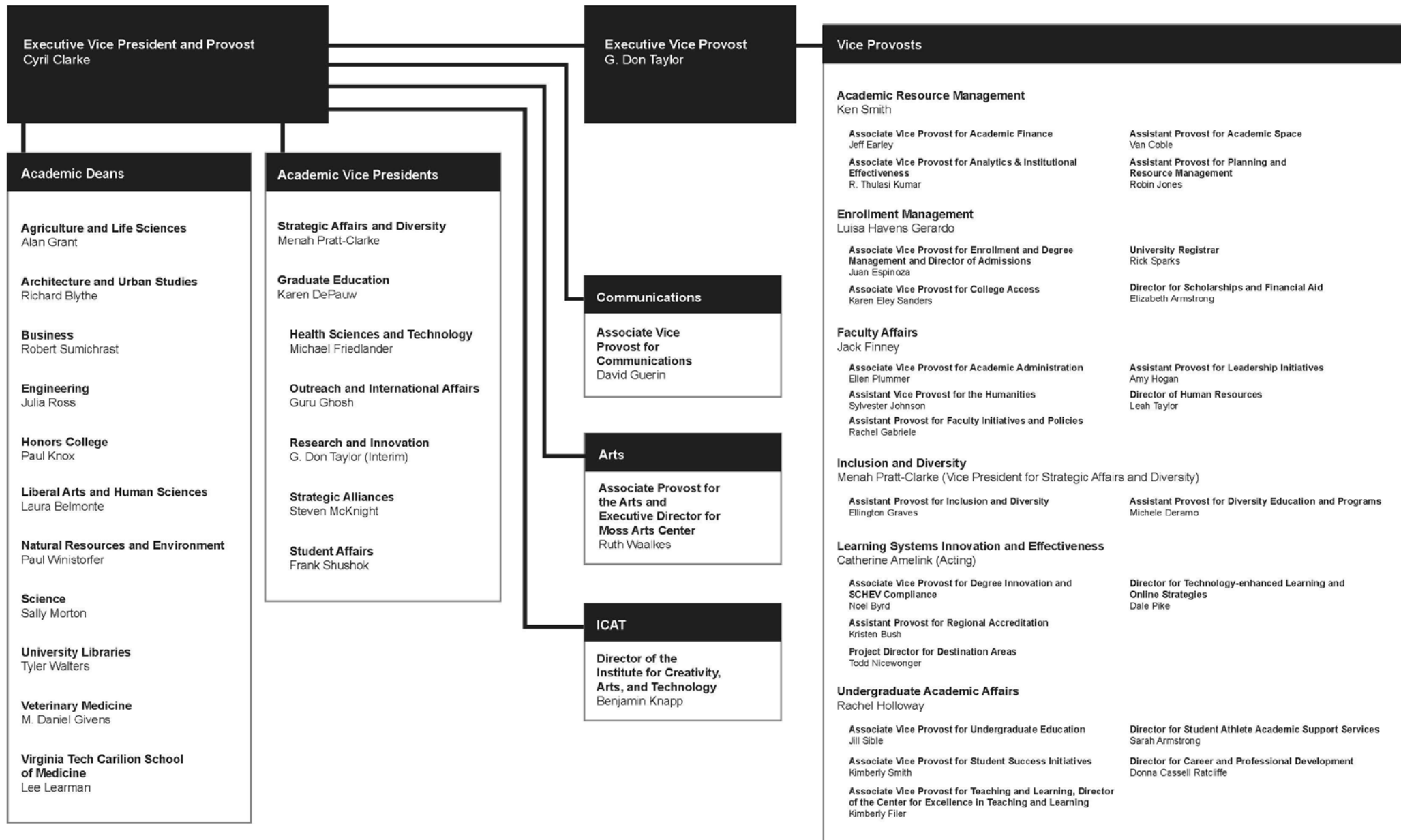
VIRGINIA TECH

WHAT IS A PROVOST?

THE UNIVERSITY'S CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

The provost serves as the university's chief executive officer in the president's absence and assists the president in the administration, coordination, and development of the university's learning, discovery, and engagement programs.

Virginia Tech EVP & Provost Academic Administration Organizational Chart
As of August 3, 2020

Executive Vice President and Provost
Cyril Clarke

Executive Vice Provost
G. Don Taylor

Vice Provosts

Academic Deans

Agriculture and Life Sciences
Alan Grant

Architecture and Urban Studies
Richard Blythe

Business
Robert Sumichrast

Engineering
Julia Ross

Honors College
Paul Knox

Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
Laura Belmonte

Natural Resources and Environment
Paul Winistorfer

Science
Sally Morton

University Libraries
Tyler Walters

Veterinary Medicine
M. Daniel Givens

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine
Lee Learman

Academic Vice Presidents

Strategic Affairs and Diversity
Menah Pratt-Clarke

Graduate Education
Karen DePauw

Health Sciences and Technology
Michael Friedlander

Outreach and International Affairs
Guru Ghosh

Research and Innovation
G. Don Taylor (Interim)

Strategic Alliances
Steven McKnight

Student Affairs
Frank Shushok

Communications

Associate Vice Provost for Communications
David Guerin

Arts

Associate Provost for the Arts and Executive Director for Moss Arts Center
Ruth Waalkes

ICAT

Director of the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology
Benjamin Knapp

Vice Provosts

Academic Resource Management
Ken Smith

Associate Vice Provost for Academic Finance
Jeff Earley

Assistant Provost for Academic Space
Van Coble

Associate Vice Provost for Analytics & Institutional Effectiveness
R. Thulasi Kumar

Assistant Provost for Planning and Resource Management
Robin Jones

Enrollment Management
Luisa Havens Gerardo

Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment and Degree Management and Director of Admissions
Juan Espinoza

University Registrar
Rick Sparks

Associate Vice Provost for College Access
Karen Eley Sanders

Director for Scholarships and Financial Aid
Elizabeth Armstrong

Faculty Affairs
Jack Finney

Associate Vice Provost for Academic Administration
Ellen Plummer

Assistant Provost for Leadership Initiatives
Amy Hogan

Assistant Vice Provost for the Humanities
Sylvester Johnson

Director of Human Resources
Leah Taylor

Assistant Provost for Faculty Initiatives and Policies
Rachel Gabriele

Inclusion and Diversity
Menah Pratt-Clarke (Vice President for Strategic Affairs and Diversity)

Assistant Provost for Inclusion and Diversity
Ellington Graves

Assistant Provost for Diversity Education and Programs
Michele Deramo

Learning Systems Innovation and Effectiveness
Catherine Amelink (Acting)

Associate Vice Provost for Degree Innovation and SCHEV Compliance
Noel Byrd

Director for Technology-enhanced Learning and Online Strategies
Dale Pike

Assistant Provost for Regional Accreditation
Kristen Bush

Project Director for Destination Areas
Todd Nicewonger

Undergraduate Academic Affairs
Rachel Holloway

Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
Jill Sible

Director for Student Athlete Academic Support Services
Sarah Armstrong

Associate Vice Provost for Student Success Initiatives
Kimberly Smith

Director for Career and Professional Development
Donna Cassell Ratcliffe

Associate Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning, Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning
Kimberly Filer

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROGRAMS REVIEWED BY ARSA

DEGREES

> Committee reviews and approves new/revised degrees prior to submission to State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) or to Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC)

- Bachelor's degree programs
- Master's and Doctoral degree programs
- Professional Degrees: MD, DVM

UNDERGRADUATE, PROFESSIONAL, AND GRADUATE STUDENT POLICIES

> Board/ARSA have responsibility to review and approve policies that apply to undergraduate, professional, and graduate students

- **Student Code of Conduct** (code applies to ALL students)
- **Graduate Honor System** (graduate and professional students)
- **Undergraduate Honor System** (undergraduate students)

ARSA'S ROLE IN FACULTY POLICY

ARSA reviews and approves policies for faculty employees of all types

> **Instructional: Teaching and Research (T/R)**

- Tenured and tenure track: assistant, associate, professor

- Non-tenure track: collegiate faculty, clinical professors of practice, instructors

> **Continued appointment and continued appointment track (equivalent to tenure)**

- University Libraries faculty

> **Research Faculty**

- Research assistant professor , research associate professor, research professor, postdoctoral associates

> **Administrative and Professional (A/P)**

- Senior Administrators

- Managers and Professionals

FACULTY EMPLOYMENT ACTIONS REVIEWED BY ARSA

PROMOTION AND TENURE

> Generally, 6 years after hire as assistant professor
> Mandatory during 6th year - review by committees by department, college, university, president

RESEARCH LEAVES

> Tenured, 6 years of service
> Additional 6 years before eligible again
> Requested by department

EMERITUS/EMERITA

> Conferred on retired full or associate professors for exemplary service

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS

> Exceptional faculty members
> Reviewed by college honorifics committee
> Donor-established endowment*

Board approves initial appointment, reappointments to the same professorship are only reported to the committee

UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

> Preeminent faculty rank
> Scholarship has national and/or international recognition

ALUMNI DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

> Extraordinary academic citizenship and distinguished service

ARSA COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS

CLOSED SESSION-PERSONNEL

> Quarterly (requires vote or ratification)

- Emeriti
- Endowed
- Personnel Changes

> Annual (requires vote)

- Research Leaves
- Promotion + Tenure
- Compensation Plan

STANDING OPEN SESSION

> Consent Agenda

> Updates:

- College (one college per meeting)
- Council of College Deans (council rep dean)
- Provost's Update

> Presentation and Discussion

- Identified by provost and ARSA chair

ARSA: PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW

CONTACT	TITLE	ROLE
Cyril Clarke & Shannon Harvey	Provost and Executive Assistant	Sets ARSA agenda with chair
Jack Finney	Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs	Faculty
Don Taylor	Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation	Research
Karen DePauw	Vice President and Dean for Graduate Education	Graduate students
Frank Shushok	Vice President for Student Affairs	Undergraduate students
Ellen Plummer	Associate Vice Provost for Academic Administration	ARSA committee administration
Rachel Gabriele	Assistant Provost for Faculty Initiatives & Policies	ARSA committee support
Judy Taylor	Executive Assistant	ARSA committee support

ARSA CONTACTS

Cyril Clarke	Provost	(540) 231-6123 provost@vt.edu
Shannon Harvey	Executive Admin to the Provost	(540) 231-6123 snharvey@vt.edu
Ellen Plummer	Associate Vice Provost for Academic Administration	(540) 231-6122 eplummer@vt.edu

Council of College Deans Update

ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

August 24, 2020

Laura Belmonte, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, serving as a liaison with the council of college deans will update the committee on behalf of the council.

Provost's Update

ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

August 24, 2020

Cyril Clarke, executive vice president and provost, will provide an update.

The Chair of the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee will discuss possible agenda items for future meetings.

The Chair of the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee will adjourn the committee meeting.